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## Texas Senior Trails Demonstration Project

### Key Words

Care, Management, Demonstration, Pilot, Quality, Chronic, CMO, FFS, Medicare, Texas, Senior, Trails, Tech, Physician, Associates

### Provider Types Affected

Providers who bill Carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs), and Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carriers (DMERCs) for beneficiaries participating in this demonstration project

### Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services awarded contracts to six Care Management Organizations (CMOs) to conduct a three-year Care Management Demonstration with chronically-ill, high cost beneficiaries. Each CMO project is part of a collective demonstration to test provider-based intensive care management services as a way to improve quality of care and reduce costs for fee-for-service beneficiaries who have one or more chronic diseases.

### Call Script

You shall use this script for responding to provider inquiries regarding beneficiaries in this demonstration project.

- Medicare has awarded a contract to Texas Tech Physician Associates to conduct a pilot project called Texas Senior Trails. As part of this project, Texas Senior Trails will offer services to a selected group of fee-for-service (original Medicare plan) beneficiaries who have one or more chronic conditions. Participation is the beneficiary's choice. This project is intended to improve quality of care and reduce costs by helping participants manage their health and avoid emergency room visits and hospitalization.
- This three-year pilot demonstration project will begin early 2006. Texas Senior Trails is not a new insurance plan. Choosing to be in this project does not mean that the beneficiary has joined an HMO, Medicare Advantage plan, or other non-fee-for-service health plan. Participation will not alter a beneficiary's Medicare coverage, choice of providers, or access to

care. It will not cost the beneficiary anything beyond normal Medicare copayments or deductibles.

- Some of the services offered by Texas Senior Trails will help participants:
  - Learn more about their chronic conditions;
  - Get support for their doctor's plan of care; and
  - Keep track of their medical treatments.
- To learn more about Texas Senior Trails:
  - Call 1-888-966-2273;
  - Email Daphne Ashburn at [daphne.ashburn@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:daphne.ashburn@ttuhsc.edu).

### Key Tips

- This is NOT a new insurance plan. It does not replace Medicare FFS benefits, but provides additional support services for those who are eligible to participate.
- Participating in this program does not mean that the beneficiary will be enrolling or have enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan or HMO.

### Important Links

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm\\_trans/R28DEMO.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm_trans/R28DEMO.pdf)

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2005/MM4100.pdf>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/researchers/demos/CMHCB/default.asp>